

Conditions During the Depression

1. Hunger Marches

- Org. by American Communist Party

2. Farm Holiday Association

- Farmers destroyed crops to try to raise prices

3. Bread Lines and Soup Kitchens Appeared

- Private and religious charity was not adequate to feed hungry

4. Hoovervilles established

- Shack villages where homeless lived

5. Rise of Hobo

- Traveled often on trains looking for work

6. Bonus Army

- Approx 17,000 WWI vets camped Hoovervilles demanding their WWI vet bonus early

- Attacked by the army- Battle of Washington

7. Dust Bowl

- Man made natural disaster from plowing up too much natural grasses on the Plains which were over-farmed

- Drought struck for years from Dakotas to Texas (centered in Oklahoma panhandle)

- So severe it blackened the sky and often killed people

- Resulted in migration out of region often west to California- refugees called Okies- 2.5 million fled up to 400,000 to California

- Chronicled in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*